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Rural Information Center

OCTOBER

UPDATE

1990

National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, MD 20705

RIC ANNOUNCES AN 800 NUMBER

RIC added a toll-free telephone number, 1-800-633-7701, in October to make it easier for rural communities to obtain the information they need. President Bush's 1990 rural economic development initiative recommended that RIC provide toll-free access for rural communities.

RIC OPENS A RURAL HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICE

Communities in the United States can now get information on rural health care issues through the Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) at the Rural Information Center. RICHS can be reached toll-free by dialing 1-800-633-7701.

The Office of Rural Health Policy in the Department of Health and Human Services funds the health information service which began operation in October.

RICHS is a clearinghouse for information on a broad range of rural health topics, including health service delivery, health personnel, policy, services utilization, financing, and the health status of various groups of Americans. The RICHS service targets users interested in rural health issues, especially health care professionals, researchers, extension agents, educators, all levels of government, and health-related groups.

The RIC/RICHS staff assists rural health groups to obtain answers to health-related questions, acquire research information, and identify funding sources for upgrading rural health programs.

NEW RIC STAFF MEMBERS

Teresa Brown joined the RIC staff in September as a Medical Librarian for RIC's Health Service. Mrs. Brown earned a B.S. in special education from Texas Tech University in Lubbock in 1974 and an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland in 1982. Since 1985 Mrs. Brown has worked at the University of Maryland McKeldin Library as a health science reference librarian.

Dorothy Heise joined the RIC staff as a Technical Information Specialist. Mrs. Heise earned a B.S.L.S. in library science from Edinboro State College, Edinboro, Pennsylvania, in 1968 and an M.L.S. from the University of Maryland in 1987. She has twenty years of library experience, having worked both as a school librarian and a special librarian in



private industry before becoming a federal librarian. Mrs. Heise worked at USDA's Economic Research Service Reference Center from 1979 to 1985 and the National Agricultural Library's Indexing Branch from 1985 to 1990 before joining the RIC staff in September.

RIC GRADUATE INTERNS

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shilts joined the RIC staff in September to complete three month internships. Mr. Shilts earned a B.A. in English while his wife, Carla, earned a B.A. in biology and psychology -- both from Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in 1986. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shilts are currently enrolled at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Tom Shilts will receive a Master of Library Science degree in December 1990 and will immediately begin his first library position as



a public service librarian at the Presque Isle County Library in Rogers City, Michigan. Carla Shilts expects to finish an M.L.S. degree in May 1991 and plans to obtain a library position in a rural area.

RIC OUTREACH

• Presentations

Louise Reynnells gave a presentation on RIC services to a workshop on community libraries held September 6 at the National Association of Towns and Townships Annual Conference in Washington, D.C

• Electronic Bulletin Board

RIC is loading current issues of the Rural Information Center Update in the file section RICNEWS.TXT on NAL's electronic bulletin board, ALF, accessible on 1-301-344-8510.

• Committee Appointments

The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) of the Department of Health and Human Services appointed Patricia John, RIC Coordinator, to serve on its Rural Health Policy Merit Evaluation Review Team which evaluated 17 applications for a grant to establish a rural health research center. ORHP awarded the grant to the University of Nebraska in October.

FY90 YEAR-END RURAL INFORMATION CENTER ANALYSIS

- User location
- Rural topics
- Affiliation

STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC. SUBMITTING HIGHEST NUMBER OF REQUESTS

District of Columbia	7%
Maryland.....	6%
Colorado & Texas (5% each)	10%
Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Virginia (4% each).....	16%
Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Wisconsin (3% each)	15%
Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia (2% each).....	28%
All Others (24 states, 2 territories and 8 foreign countries).....	18%

BREAKDOWN OF RURAL REVITALIZATION QUESTIONS

Quality of Life/Natural Resources	41%
Economic Viability	40%
Local Government Services	10%
Leadership/Community Change.....	9%

AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN

State and County Extension Staff.....	44%
Universities.....	12%
Individuals.....	10%
USDA Officials	6%
Libraries	5%
Local Officials, Community/Rural/Economic Development Organizations and Special Interest Groups (4% each) ..	12%
State Officials, Federal Officials (non-USDA) and Businesses (3% each).....	9%
Congress and Educational Institutions (non-university) (1% each)	2%